

PS 6101 Pastoral Theology
Instructor: Al Thiessen DMin
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Providence Theological Seminary
March 5-9, 2012 (8:30 -4:00)

*****Please notify the instructor at least one week before the course to receive course notes and other handouts. *****

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will involve a consideration of the minister's calling, character and the theological metaphors guiding pastoral practise. Discussion of how to conduct pastoral leadership in the changing church and cultural environment while maintaining the historic practises of congregational life will also be considered. Since pastors may be employed as senior or lead pastors, as full or part time staff, as bi-vocational church planters, as lay ministers, chaplains or as some other variation of pastoral ministry, some translation of the pastoral function will need to take place so that pastoral ministry makes theological sense within one's context.

Since most congregations still expect ministers to oversee the administration of weddings and funerals, baptisms and communion, preaching, worship and pastoral care, and offer leadership for church boards, attention will be paid to the principles and practises involved in these activities. Where possible, demonstrations of these practises will be undertaken so that students gain confidence in their ability to practise these things well.

Students who have already taken previous courses (i.e. - *Intro. To Pastoral Ministry, Clinical Pastoral Experience, Congregational Care and Counselling*, etc.) will be able to refine their pastoral practises and complete any gaps in their understanding of pastoral practise by focusing on areas which may need further attention.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will evaluate his/her call and fitness for vocational ministry and discover the way in which their call is supported and affirmed within their church, denomination, or para-church organization.
2. The student will learn about the various duties a pastor is expected to perform and how to carry them out in practise.
3. The student will consider some of the difficulties and problems of pastoral ministry as well as the resources available to ensure faithful ministry through difficult times.

4. The student will finalize a personal philosophy of ministry that is suitable for a candidating situation or congregational placement.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tidball, Derek. *Ministry By The Book: New Testament Patterns For Pastoral Leadership*. (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2008)

Trull, Joe E. and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004)

Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002)

All students should have a *Pastor's Handbook* (Service Book) for personal use and of their denominational preference. Check with your denominational headquarters or purchase a suitable service manual with generic categories (i.e. – ceremonies for weddings, funerals, child dedication, etc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will complete a Philosophy of Ministry paper on his/her philosophy of ministry. The paper should include the core values that will shape personal ministry and clearly express how ministry is going to be carried out in light of giftedness and personality. If students are not yet in a ministry setting, they may want to visualize what their preferred setting would be and write their philosophy with that in mind. This paper should be written so that it could be used in a candidating situation or placement in a church. **(Seven pages)**
For students who have already completed this assignment for other courses, you may arrange a meeting with a representative from a church, denomination or ministry to explore any standards relating to the candidating or placement process. Exploration should include the character requirements, ethical standards, doctrinal standards, organizational and polity issues, and mentoring support for ministry candidates in the ministry you have chosen. At the same time, your completed Philosophy of Ministry can be discussed with the representative as to its suitability for presentation to a church or ministry. **Complete a seven page summary of your discussion for submission along with your already completed Philosophy of Ministry**
2. Each student will write an outline for three different types of service performed in your tradition: **funeral, wedding and child dedication**. For each service you must include a sample of the pre-service preparation you would do and any post service follow-up. Based on the type of funeral, wedding, or child dedication you are conducting, your pre-service preparation and post service follow-up may undergo some modification from that which is presented in class. Thus, you may

ask some different questions if the funeral is for someone of another culture or if the wedding is for someone who has step-children and is being married for the second time, etc.

If doing a funeral, include any questions you would explore with the family before structuring the funeral service, any questions to ask the funeral director, anything you might need to know for the graveside ceremony. Then following the service, describe how you intend to follow up with the family in the next six months.

Follow a similar protocol for weddings: What questions do you need to have answered (other than those covered in pre-marital counselling) before you create the wedding service. Describe how you will follow-up with the couple after the wedding.

Child dedication: What do you want to explore with the parents before you do the ceremony in a church service? How will you follow up afterwards?

(Total - 10 pages for all three services)

3. Secure a copy of the Annual report of a church or ministry and make an appointment to discuss the details with an appropriate church or ministry representative. In particular, discuss any questions you have about how the church or ministry structures and reports on its financial status. Familiarize yourself in advance with anything about the budgeting process that you may not understand. Explore questions of how faith fits into the budgeting process, how accountability is achieved, how issues of deficit or surplus are handled, how new ministries are financed, how salaries are assessed and reported, how giving patterns influence the budget, how stewardship is promoted. Complete a **five page summary** of your discussion for submission.
4. Each student will read the texts and submit a **three page critique of each** of the books describing their most helpful elements for use in your circumstances (excluding the service manual). Also include any elements which challenged your thinking and explain why you would embrace or discard those elements.

Note: A late penalty of 2% per day will be deducted for papers submitted after the deadline.

GRADING COMPONENTS

Textbook Summary-20% - **DUE – March 23**

Philosophy Paper – 25% **DUE – April 5th**

Services Paper- 25% **DUE – April 12th**

Annual Report/Financial Summary – 20% **DUE – April 26th**

Attendance and Participation-10%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday, March 5th

- A. Defining Pastoral Theology: Belief and Practise in the Ministry Setting
- B. Contextualization ...the unique vision and ministry of a church
- C. Pastoral Metaphors (Outlook and Organizational Metaphors)
- D. Pastoral Fit – What the church needs, what the pastor offers

Tuesday

- A. The “Call” to Ministry
- B. The Pastoral Placement Process
- C. Forms and characteristics of church leaders
- D. Pastor –Board Relations: Team, trust, collaboration
- E. Working with Committees

Wednesday

- A. Staff Relationships
- B. The pastor’s spouse and the pastoral family
- C. Handling Conflict: Biblical injunctions and the church family system
- D. Planning the Funeral Service

Thursday

- A. Weddings: More Lasting Unions
- B. Premarital counselling
- C. **Pastor’s Forum** (Invited Guests):
Ministry – Its Forms, Best Resources and *“If I was beginning again I would...”*

Friday

- A. Worship Services
- B. Philosophy, Planning, Implementation
- C. Ordinances: Baptism and Communion (demonstration)
- D. Discouragement in Ministry
- E. Ethics and Issues

RECOMMENDED READING

Anderson, Robert C. *The Effective Pastor: A Practical Guide to the Ministry* (Northfield Publications, 1999)

Atkinson, David J. (ed.) *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1995)

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor* (1673) Soli Deo Gloria, 1997.

Briarly, Steve R. *Help for the Small-Church Pastor* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996)

Brown, Daniel A. *The Other Side of Pastoral Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997)

Carson, D.A. *The Cross and Christian Ministry* (Baker Books, 2003)

Carson, D.A. *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001)

Carson, D.A. (ed.) *Worship By The Book* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002)

Cedar, Paul and Kent Hughes and Ben Patterson. *Mastering the Pastoral Role* (Multnomah, 1991)

Charry, Ellen T. *By the Renewing Of Your Minds: The Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997)

Cole, Neil. *Organic Leadership: Leading Naturally Right Where You Are* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009)

Cousins, Don and Leith Anderson and Arthur Dekruyler. *Mastering Church Management* (Multnomah, 1990)

Fagerstrom, Douglas L. *The Ministry Staff Member: A Contemporary, Practical Handbook to Equip, Encourage, and Empower* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006)

Fisher, David. *The 21st Century Pastor* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996)

Frost, Michael. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture* (Hendrickson, 2006)

Gilmore, John. *Pastoral Politics: Why Ministers Resign* (AMG Publishers, 2002)

Gushee, David and Walter Jackson (ed's.) *Preparing For Christian Ministry: An Evangelical Approach* (Wheaton, Ill: Victor Books, 1996)

Hauerwas, Stanley and William Willimon. *Resident Aliens* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989)

Hirsch, Alan. *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006)

Job, Reuben P. *A Guide to Retreat for All God's Shepherds* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994)

Lloyd, Dan S. *Leading Today's Funerals*. (Baker Books, 1997)

Malphurs, Aubrey and Keith Willhite. *A Contemporary Handbook for Weddings and Funerals*. (Kregel Publications, 2003)

McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions For the Church* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003)

Oden, Thomas. *Pastoral Theology: Essentials of Ministry* (Harper and Row, 1983)

Peterson, Eugene. *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction* (Eerdmans, 1993)

Piper, John. *The Supremacy of God in Preaching*. (Baker Book House, 1990)

Powers, Bruce P. *Church Administration Handbook* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2002)

Prime, Derek and Alistair Begg. *On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work* (Moody, 2006)

Purves, Andrew. *The Crucifixion of Ministry: Surrendering Our Ambition to the Service of Christ*. (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2007)

Salter, Darius. *What Really Matters In Ministry: Profiling Pastoral Success in Flourishing Churches* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1990)

Shaw, Mark. *Ten Great Ideas From Church History: A Decision-Maker's Guide To Shaping Your Church* (Downer's Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1997)

Stott, John. *Basic Christian Leadership* (Intervarsity Press, 2002)

Stott, John. *The Preacher's Portrait*. (Eerdmans, 1961)

Swetland, Kenneth L. *Facing Ministry Stuff in the Church: Case Studies for Pastors and Congregations* (Kregel Academic, 2005)

Thiessen, H.C. *Pastoring the Smaller Church* (Zondervan, 1962)

Thompson, James. *Pastoral Ministry According To Paul: A Biblical Vision* (Baker Books, 2006)

Tidball, Derek. *Ministry By the Book: New Testament Patterns for Pastoral Leadership* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2008)

Van Yperen, Jim. *Making Peace: A Guide To Overcoming Church Conflict* (Chicago: Moody, 2002)

White, John. *Excellence in Leadership: Reaching Goals With Prayer Courage and Determination* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1986)

Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practise of Ordained Ministry* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002)